

## Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CCO-00 PA-02

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DRAFTED BY S/PRS:JHTRATTNER:HHB

APPROVED BY S/PRS - JOHN H. TRATTNER

S/S -FVORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

INFO CINCPAC PRTORTTY

UNCLAS STATE 014177 TOSEC 010036

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:SOPN (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT:SUMMARY OF DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING TUESDAY,  
JANUARY 20, 1976

FOR FUNSETH FROM S/PRS

FOR CINCPAC: PASS DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL

NO. 3

IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, SPOKESMAN GAVE FOLLOWING REPLIES:

1. REPORTED MOVEMENT OF PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS INTO LEBANON  
FROM SYRIA: WE HAVE INFORMATION SOME PALESTINIAN RE-  
INFORCEMENTS HAVE ENTERED LEBANON FROM SYRIA. WE BELIEVE  
FIGURES IN PRESS RANGING FROM 5,000 TO 15,000 ARE  
EXAGGERATED. WE HAVE NO REPEAT NO EVIDENCE OF ANY SYRIAN  
MILITARY UNITS ENTERING LEBANON. WE CONTINUE WATCH  
SITUATION THERE CLOSELY.

2. U.S. VIEW OF ENTRY OF PALESTINIANS: WE HAVE SUPPORTED  
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AND CONTINUE SUPPORT LEBANESE GOVERNMENT EFFORTS FOR

CEASEFIRE AND HAVE URGED RESTRAINT ON ALL PARTIES TO FIGHTING. SO IT STANDS TO REASON WE OPPOSE ESCALATION OF CONFLICT FROM WHATEVER SOURCE. WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO

SOLUTION WHICH PRESERVES INDEPENDENCE, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, NATIONAL UNITY AND COHESION OF LEBANON. WE OPPOSED TO PARTITION OF LEBANON AND TO OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE FROM ANY QUARTER. WE DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT DETERIORATING SITUATION AND EVERYONE CONCERNED IS AWARE OUR VIEWS.

3. REPORTED REQUEST BY LEBANESE INTERIOR MINISTER FOR U.S. INTERVENTION: WE HAVE NOT REPEAT NOT HAD ANY REQUEST FROM LEBANESE GOVERNMENT. LEBANESE AMBASSADOR TO UN IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID HE KNOWS NOTHING OF SUCH REQUEST. WE WISH MAKE IT CLEAR WE ARE NOT REPEAT NOT GIVING ANY CONSIDERATION TO U.S. INTERVENTION IN LEBANON.

4. REPORT THAT RABIN MIGHT POSTPONE U.S. VISIT DUE SITUATION IN LEBANON: WE HAVE SEEN SUCH REPORTS BUT NO SUCH DECISION HAS BEEN COMMUNICATED TO US. WE LOOKING FORWARD TO WELCOMING HIM TO U.S. NEXT WEEK.

5. AT CONCLUSION OF BRIEFING SPOKESMAN MADE FOLLOWING COMMENT IN RESPONSE NEWS REPORTS (NYTIMES AND WASHPOST) THAT U.S. KNEW IDENTITY OF KILLERS OF AMBASSADOR DAVIES IN CYPRUS AND IMPLICATION THEREIN THAT U.S. HAD NOT FOLLOWED UP STRONGLY ENOUGH WITH CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT:

QUOTE: I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS CONSISTENTLY AND VIGOROUSLY PURSUED EFFORTS TO INSURE THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MURDER OF AMBASSADOR ROGER DAVIES ARE APPREHENDED AND BROUGHT TO JUSTICE. THESE EFFORTS BEGAN IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ASSASSINATION ON AUGUST 19, 1974 AND HAVE CONTINUED TO THIS DAY AND INCLUDE A PERSONAL INTERVENTION BY THE SECRETARY.

AT THIS TIME THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DOES NOT KNOW THE IDENTITY OF THE PERSON OR PERSONS WHO KILLED AMBASSADOR UNCLASSIFIED

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DAVIES. TELEVISION NEWS FILMS AND OTHER EVIDENCE HAVE BEEN PROVIDED TO CYPRIOT SECURITY AUTHORITIES TO ASSIST THEM IN THEIR INVESTIGATION AND TO HELP IDENTIFY SOME OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MOB WHO WERE FIRING AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. HOWEVER, FROM THIS EVIDENCE AVAILABLE TO US IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE WHO FIRED THE SHOT THAT KILLED AMBASSADOR DAVIES. WE HAVE ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS, BOTH IN NICOSIA AND WASHINGTON, EXPRESSED

TO OFFICIALS OF THE CYPRUS GOVERNMENT AT ALL LEVELS OUR  
CONVICTION THAT THE INVESTIGATION OF RODGER DAVIES'  
KILLING SHOULD BE VIGOROUSLY PURSUED. WE HAVE BEEN  
ASSURED THAT THIS WILL BE DONE. THE GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS  
IS AWARE THAT WE ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH ITS ACTIONS TO  
DATE.

ANY IMPLICATIONS THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS  
BEEN LAX IN ITS EFFORTS TO BRING THE KILLERS TO JUSTICE  
IS AN UNWARRANTED AND REPREHENSIBLE DISTORTION OF THE  
FACTS AND A DISSERVICE TO THE MEMORY OF A DISTINGUISHED  
AND RESPECTED AMERICAN DIPLOMAT. END QUOTE

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